

From: Ian Zepp
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:40am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The following are my comments to the proposed Microsoft-USDOJ settlement.

I am the CEO of a small real-estate development firm, and as a member of the financial sector, find myself using the Microsoft Office suite of programs for most of my daily activities. I would like to switch to using a non-MS office suite, but because of the large numbers of documents that we have saved in Word and Excel formats, I am unable to do so.

Microsoft has made it increasingly difficult over the past few years to use any competitive products, by keeping their document formats secret. For a smaller company this might not be a major grievance, but as Microsoft controls approximately 90% of the desktop market, their actions force me to continue using their products. Were I to switch to a competing product, I would be unable to interact with those who continue to use the Microsoft product.

I sincerely hope that the US Department of Justice reconsiders their proposed settlement.

Respectfully yours,

Ian Zepp
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